IN THE CLAIMS

The status of each claim is listed below.

Claims 1-36: Canceled.

37. (New) An acellular immunogenic composition capable of inducing an immune response against *B. anthracis* infections, comprising:

an isolated protective anthrax antigen from *B. anthracis*,

killed and purified spores obtained from a mutant strain of *B. anthracis* lacking pXO2 plasmids, and

a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

38. (New) The acellular immunogenic composition as claimed in claim 37, which induces the production of antibodies against *B. anthracis*.

39. (New) The acellular immunogenic composition as claimed in claim 37, which further comprises at least one detoxified exotoxin selected from the group consisting of a lethal factor and a edematogenic factor.

40. (New) The acellular immunogenic composition as claimed in claim 37, wherein the spores are isolated from a strain of *B. anthracis* selected from the group consisting of the following strains: Sterne 7702, RPLC2 (Collection Nationale de Cultures et de Microorganismes (National Collection of Cultures and of Microorganisms) held by the Institute Pasteur under the number I-2270, dated July 28, 1999) and RP42 (Collection

Nationale de Cultures et de Microorganismes (National Collection of Cultures and of Microorganisms) held by the Institute Pasteur under the number I- 2271, dated July 28, 1999).

41. (New) The immunogenic composition as claimed in claim 37, wherein the isolated protective anthrax antigen is selected from the group consisting of purified protective antigens isolated from a wild-type or mutated Sterne strain of *B. anthracis* and a recombinantly produced protective antigen of *B. anthracis*.

42. (New) The immunogenic composition or vaccine composition as claimed in claim 37, wherein the isolated protective anthrax antigen is isolated from the RP42 strain (Collection Nationale de Cultures et de Microorganismes (National Collection of Cultures and of Microorganism) held by the Institute Pasteur under the number I-2271, dated July 28, 1999).

43. (New) An acellular vaccine composition against *B. anthracis*, comprising:

an isolated protective antigen from *B. anthracis*, and

killed and purified spores obtained from (a) a mutant strain of *B. anthracis* carrying one or more mutations selected from the group consisting of mutations in at least one gene encoding a protein responsible for a toxic effect selected from the group consisting of a lethal factor and an edematogenic factor or (b) a mutant strain of *B. anthracis* lacking pXO2 plasmids,

a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle, and

at least one adjuvant.

44. (New) The vaccine composition of claim 43, which further comprises at least one detoxified exotoxin selected from the group consisting of a lethal factor and an edematogenic factor.

45. (New) The vaccine composition of claim 43, wherein the spores are isolated from a strain of *B. anthracis* selected from the group consisting of the following strains: Sterne 7702, RPLC2 (Collection Nationale de Cultures et de Microorganismes (National Collection of Cultures and of Microorganisms) held by the Institute Pasteur under the number I-2270, dated July 28, 1999) and RP42 (Collection Nationale de Cultures et de Microorganismes (National Collection of Cultures and of Microorganisms) held by the Institute Pasteur under the number I- 2271, dated July 28, 1999).

46. (New) The vaccine composition of claim 43, wherein the isolated protective antigen is selected from the group consisting of purified protective antigens isolated from a wild-type or mutated Sterne strain of *B. anthracis* and a recombinantly produced protective antigen of *B. anthracis*.

47. (New) The vaccine composition of claim 43, wherein the protective antigen is isolated from the RP42 strain (Collection Nationale de Cultures et de Microorganismes (National Collection of Cultures and of Microorganism) held by the Institute Pasteur under the number I-2271, dated July 28, 1999).

48. (New) An acellular immunogenic composition capable of inducing an immune response against *B. anthracis* infections, comprising:

an isolated protective antigen from *B. anthracis*,

killed spores obtained from (a) a mutant strain of *B. anthracis* carrying one or more mutations selected from mutations in at least one gene encoding a protein responsible for a toxic effect selected from the group consisting of a lethal factor and an edematogenic factor or (b) a mutant strain of *B. anthracis* lacking pXO2 plasmids, and

a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

49. (New) The immunogenic composition as claimed in claim 48, which also comprises at least one detoxified exotoxin selected from the group consisting of a lethal factor and an edematogenic factor.

50. (New) The immunogenic composition as claimed in claim 48, wherein the spores are isolated from a strain of *B. anthracis* selected from the group consisting of the following strains: Sterne 7702, RPLC2 (Collection Nationale de Cultures et de Microorganismes (National Collection of Cultures and of Microorganisms) held by the Institute Pasteur under the number I-2270, dated July 28, 1999) and RP42 (Collection Nationale de Cultures et de Microorganismes (National Collection of Cultures and of Microorganisms) held by the Institute Pasteur under the number I- 2271, dated July 28, 1999).

51. (New) The immunogenic composition as claimed in claim 48, wherein the isolated protective antigen is selected from the group consisting of purified protective antigens isolated from a wild-type or mutated Sterne strain of *B. anthracis* and a recombinantly produced protective antigen of *B. anthracis*.

52. (New) The immunogenic composition or vaccine composition as claimed in claim 48, wherein the protective antigen is isolated from the RP42 strain (Collection Nationale de Cultures et de Microorganismes (National Collection of Cultures and of Microorganism) held by the Institute Pasteur under the number I-2271, dated July 28, 1999).

53. (New) An acellular vaccine composition against *B. anthracis*, comprising:

an isolated protective antigen from *B. anthracis*,

killed spores obtained from (a) a mutant strain of *B. anthracis* carrying one or more mutations selected from mutations in at least one gene encoding a protein responsible for a toxic effect selected from the group consisting of a lethal factor and an edematogenic factor or (b) a mutant strain of *B. anthracis* lacking pXO2 plasmids, and

a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

54. (New) The vaccine composition as claimed in claim 53, further comprising at least one detoxified exotoxin selected from the group consisting of a lethal factor and an edematogenic factor.

55. (New) The vaccine composition as claimed in claim 53, wherein the spores are isolated from a strain of *B. anthracis* selected from the group consisting of the following strains: Sterne 7702, RPLC2 (Collection Nationale de Cultures et de Microorganismes (National Collection of Cultures and of Microorganisms) held by the Institute Pasteur under the number I-2270, dated July 28, 1999) and RP42 (Collection Nationale de Cultures et de Microorganismes (National Collection of Cultures and of Microorganisms) held by the Institute Pasteur under the number I- 2271, dated July 28, 1999).

56. (New) The vaccine composition as claimed in claim 53, wherein the isolated protective antigen is selected from the group consisting of purified protective antigens isolated from a wild-type or mutated Sterne strain of *B. anthracis* and a recombinantly produced protective antigen of *B. anthracis*.

57. (New) The vaccine composition as claimed in claim 53, wherein the protective antigen is isolated from the RP42 strain (Collection Nationale de Cultures et de Microorganismes (National Collection of Cultures and of Microorganism) held by the Institute Pasteur under the number I-2271, dated July 28, 1999).

58. (New) The acellular immunogenic composition as claimed in claim 37, which contains killed and purified spores obtained from a mutant strain of *B. anthracis* lacking pXO2 plasmids and having pXO1 plasmids.

59. (New) The acellular vaccine composition as claimed in claim 43, wherein the spores are obtained from *B. anthracis* lacking pXO2 plasmids and having pXO1 plasmids.

60. (New) The acellular immunogenic composition as claimed in claim 48, wherein the spores are obtained from *B. anthracis* lacking pXO2 plasmids and having pXO1 plasmids.

61. (New) The acellular vaccine of claim 53, wherein the spores are obtained from *B. anthracis* lacking pXO2 plasmids and having pXO1 plasmids.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Newly-added Claims 37-61 are supported by the specification at pages 1-19 and by the original claims. No new matter is believed to have been added to the present application by the amendments submitted above.